S. Just Urban District Council.

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1913.

BEARE AND SON, PRINTERS, PENZANCE.

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FOR THE YEAR 1913.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

The Parish of S. Just is bounded on the north by Morvah, on the south by S. Buryan and Sennen, on the east by Sancreed, and on the west by the Atlantic Ocean.

The surface is undulating, with three valleys, through each of which a stream flows. There is a series of villages and hamlets, together with the town of S. Just.

The chief industries are tin and copper mining and production of arsenic.

I regret to say that the decrease in the price of tin has seriously handicapped the mines, and one of the most important has ceased to work.

China Clay industry seems to look in a healthy condition, and gives employment to men in this parish and from Sancreed, and the likelihood of further ventures being opened up will, I hope, compensate for the decline in the older industry of the parish.

Farming still continues in a satisfactory state.

Unemployment through the stoppage of one mine has interfered to a great extent with quite 200 men, most of whom have sought work in other mines; several have left for Camborne, Wales, South Africa, and America.

The poor law relief is still well within bounds, and unless some serious interference should occur with our industries, it ought to still further recede.

Penzance Infirmary continues to receive urgent cases, and I must express my thanks on behalf of this parish for the skill and untiring attention bestowed on cases sent to that Institution.

During the early part of the year the National Insurance Act came into force.

NEW HOUSES.

Seven new houses have been completed with three or more bedrooms, and four have been enlarged so as to have three or more bedrooms.

WATER.

I regret that the water supplies for S. Just, Truthwall, Botallack, Carnyorth, and Higher Boscaswell are no nearer than they were nine years ago, and my opinion is that this greatly needed want could

have been surmounted and the urgent needs of the inhabitants supplied.

SEWAGE.

This must remain in abeyance till the water supply becomes an accomplished fact.

MILK SUPPLY.

The milk is good and abundant, and it would indeed be difficult to find a district better supplied. The dairies are kept clean, and I would still recommend you to adopt the Cow-sheds and Dairies Act.

MEAT.

The meat is very good, and the District well supplied.

VEGETABLES.

Vegetables are still sent from Market Gardeners outside the District, and many are grown in our own parish.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

All are registered and kept clean.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS.

On Bosorne Valley side the river is polluted, but I must congratulate you on having piped the drain to the river, thus doing away with the foul stench which prevailed about the village of Bosorne.

The stream in Kenidjack is at times polluted when an overflow exists from the receiving pit, and the County Medical Officer of Health drew your attention to this in his special report in May, 1913.

REMOVAL OF EXCRETA AND REFUSE.

I have not had so many complaints during the year as previously, but it should always have your serious attention till such time as a proper sewerage system is introduced: you having taken over the removal of refuse, etc., is a step in the right direction, but I strongly urge you to purchase a cart which should be fitted with a cover, as I recently saw refuse strewn over the roads when the cart had been overfilled, which is highly prejudicial to the public health.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

There are no Common Lodging-houses in the District.

BAKEHOUSES.

The bakehouses are kept clean, and the bread is of a superior quality; all the bakehouses are registered.

VACCINATIONS.

Vaccinations are well carried out where permitted, but I regret to say that owing to the easy manner exemptions are acquired, the District cannot be said to be satisfactory.

DISINFECTANTS.

A good supply of disinfectants is kept, and the Sanitary Inspector has well attended to his duties in disinfecting houses promptly and efficiently.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

This Act is well looked into, and no complaints have been made.

SCHOOLS.

The Schools are kept as clean as they can be under the circumstances, and it would be of the greatest advantage if a water supply were installed, so that proper water-closets could be substituted for the pits, which are always a source of foul gases. Cape Cornwall Infants' School was closed on April 11th for three weeks on account of Measles. April 26th, Kelynack Mixed School was closed for three weeks on account of Measles. May 31st, Carnyorth Infants' Schools was closed for three weeks for the same disease. Cape Cornwall Girls' School was closed on account of Diphtheria, on which I made a special report to you.

I deplore the forcing of children to attend school when in an unfit condition. The Educational Authorities in order to increase the grants through percentage, lose sight of the importance of keeping children apart when suffering from diseases which can be propagated by contact, and there is no excuse, as they can have every opportunity to ascertain by medical certificates if they will bear the trifling expense.

HOUSING.

The closing down of Botallack Mine and new houses built and the enlarging of others, has reduced the demand for houses, consequently your District is sufficiently provided for, and should tin further depreciate, there is grave doubts of some of the existing mines being able to carry on. Looking at the present aspect I could not advise you to build new houses, which might never be occupied, as there are already five new artisans' houses at Truthwall Terrace, and six better-class houses unoccupied in the District.

HOUSING REGULATIONS (Inspector of District) 1910.

Number of houses inspected	54.
Total number of inspections made	60.
Number of houses in which defects were found	1.
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, rectified	1.
Number of representations to Local Authority with a view to making closing orders ...	0.
Number of closing orders made	0.
As a result of closing orders	0.
Number of dwelling-houses which, after making closing orders were put in a fit state of habitation	0.
No. of dwelling-houses demolished	0.
(*a*) By voluntary action	0.
(*b*) As a result of closing orders ...	0.

STATISTICS.

The population of S. Just Urban District (1911) is 5,753. During the year 152 births were registered—83 males, 69 females, giving a birth-rate of 26·40, being three births less than last year.

One hundred and ten deaths were registered—67 males, 43 females, a death rate of 19·12; as compared with last year an increase of 21.

A natural increase of 42.

Twenty-two deaths occurred under one year; two between one and two years; eight between two and five years; 15 between five and 15 years; three between 15 and 25 years; 12 between 25 and 45 years; 24 between 45 and 65 years; and 29 of over 65 years.

One death was due to Enteric Fever,
Four to Measles, 16 to Diphtheria,
One to Influenza, one to Erysipelas,
Sixteen to Pulmonary Tuberculosis,
Two to Tubercular Meningitis,
Two to other Tubercular Diseases,
Six to Cancer,
One to Rheumatic Fever,
Eight to Heart Disease,
One to Bronchitis,
Two to Pneumonia, two to other Diseases of the Respiratory Organs,
One to Alcoholism,
One to Nephritis, one to accidents of Pregnancy and Parturition,
Ten to Premature Birth,
Six to Violent Death,
One Suicide,
Eighteen to defined Diseases,
Fourteen to ill-defined Diseases.

NOTIFICATION OF DISEASES.

Diphtheria	124.
Erysipelas	2.
Scarlet Fever	7.
Enteric Fever	1.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	24.
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	6.

Total cost, £20 : 8 : 6.

R. G. NESBITT,

Medical Officer of Health.